



NOAA Habitat Blueprint

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NOAA HABITAT BLUEPRINT AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER HABITAT FOCUS AREA

RUSSIAN RIVER HABITAT FOCUS AREA MEETINGS

JUNE 26TH-27TH, 2013



WHAT IS NOAA'S HABITAT BLUEPRINT?

- The **Habitat Blueprint** is NOAA's strategy to integrate habitat conservation throughout the agency, focus efforts in priority areas, and leverage internal and external collaborations to achieve measurable benefits within key habitats such as rivers, coral reefs, and wetlands



HOW DOES IT WORK?



Components:

- Establish Habitat Focus Areas
- Enhanced Habitat Science
- Strengthen Policy and Legislation
- Regional Habitat Initiatives

Drivers:

- Difficulty demonstrating impact of NOAA's habitat conservation activities
- Perceived lack of LO collaboration
- Declining habitat funding
- NGO concerns over NOAA's level of support for habitat

Improving the way we do business

NOAA LINE OFFICES INVOLVED

Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR)



Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

*An informed society
anticipating and
responding to climate
and its impacts*

National Weather Service (NWS)



Weather Ready Nation

*Society is prepared
for and responds to
weather-related
events*

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)



Healthy Habitats and Fisheries

*Marine fisheries,
habitats,
and biodiversity
sustained within
healthy and productive
ecosystems*

National Ocean Service (NOS)



Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies

*Coastal and Great Lakes
communities that are
environmentally and
economically
sustainable*

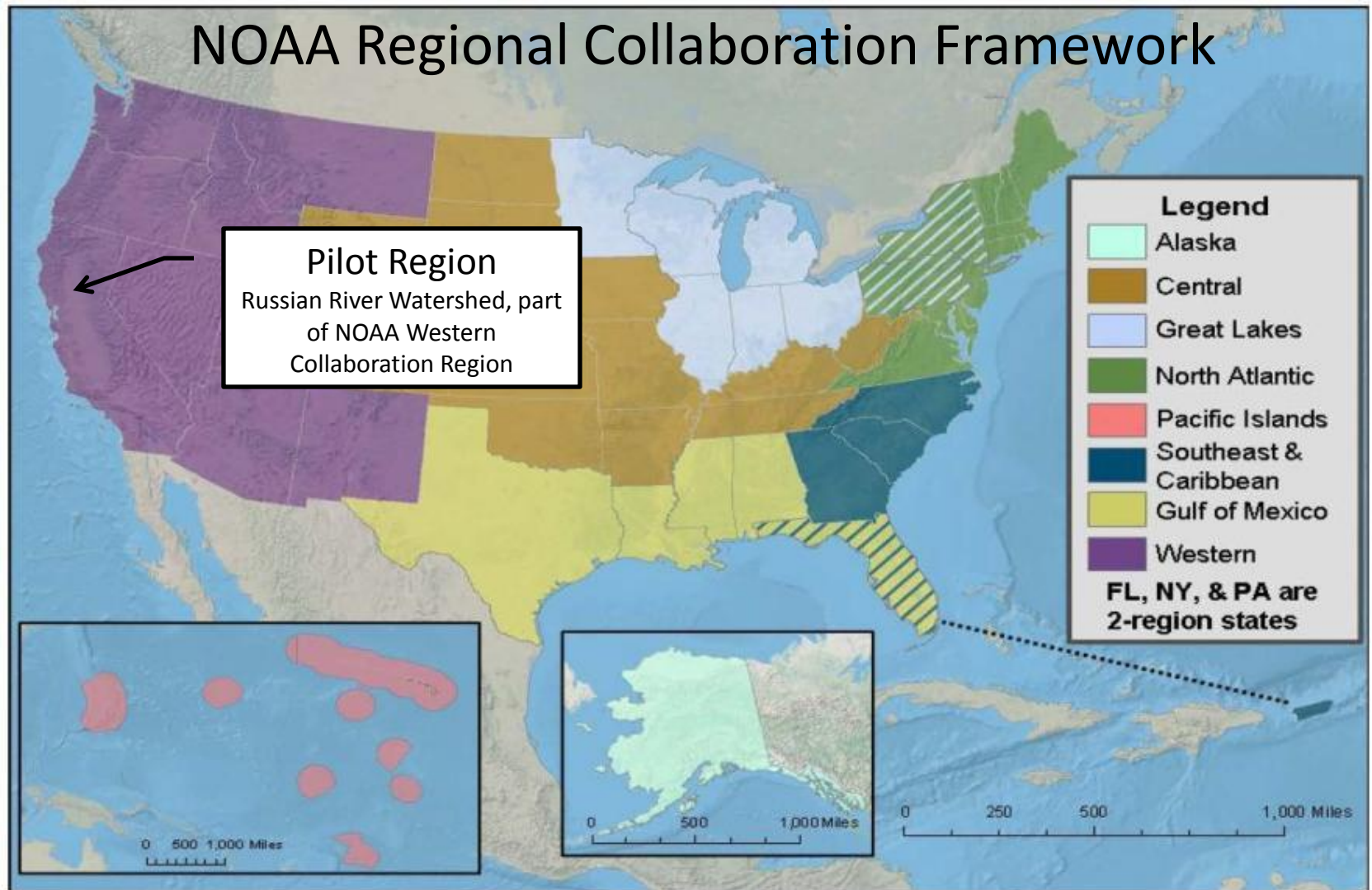
Program Planning and Integration (PPI)



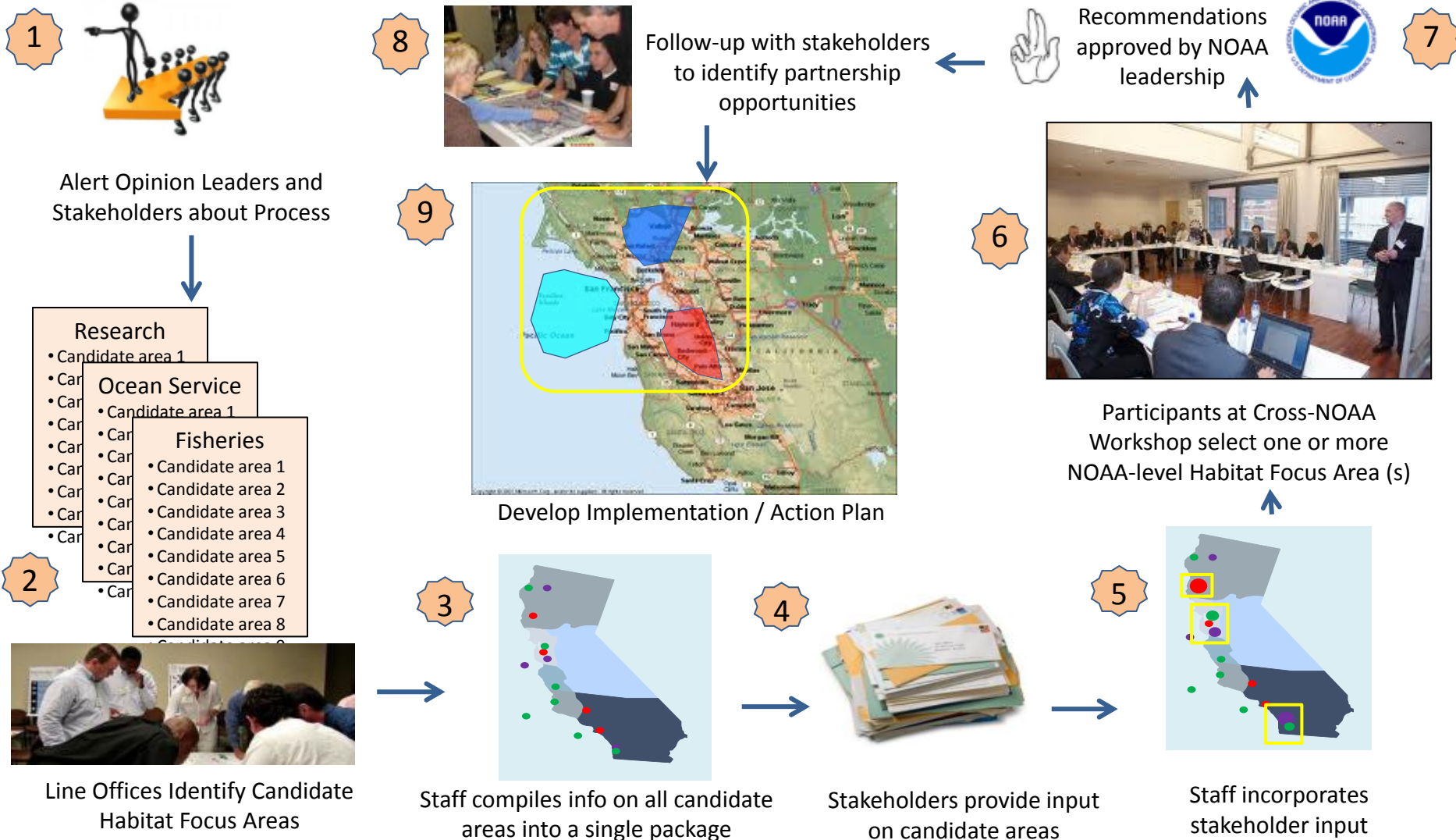
Social Science and Strategy

*Strategic planning,
social and economic
impacts,
stakeholders and
environmental
policy*

TESTING THE PROCESS – THE CALIFORNIA PILOT



THE FOCUS AREA SELECTION PROCESS



WHY THE RUSSIAN RIVER?



- Habitat restoration needed for ESA-listed coho salmon and threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead populations
- Communities and businesses subject to frequent and severe flooding
- Competing uses for the River's water
- Multiple cross-NOAA projects already underway
- Active stakeholder / partner community
- NOAA leadership will make a significant difference
- Real progress achievable in 3 to 5 years

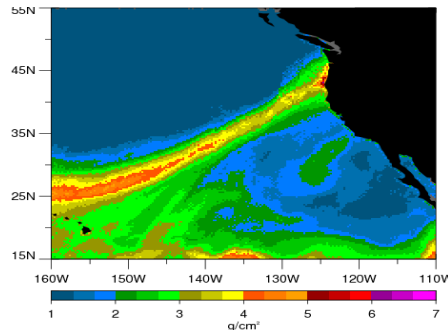
WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS ?

- 1) Habitat Focus Area Selection (Winter 2012/2013)
- 2) Development of Implementation Team and Structure (Spring 2013)
- 3) Identify Focus Area Objectives
- 4) Development of Core Projects (Tiers 1, 2, 3)
- 5) Partner Meetings and Input  **WE ARE HERE**
- 6) Draft Implementation Plan (Late Summer 2013)
- 7) Re-circulate Plan to Partners
- 8) Stakeholder Meetings and Input (Fall 2013)
- 9) Final Implementation Plan (Winter 2013)
- 10) Launch Web Based Mapping Tool for Blueprint Projects
- 11) Implement Projects (3- 5 years)

OBJECTIVES

Russian River Habitat Focus Area objectives include:

1. Rebuilding endangered coho salmon and threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead stocks to sustainable levels through habitat protection and restoration.
2. Improving frost, rainfall, and river forecasts in the Russian River watershed through improved data collection and modeling.
3. Increasing community and ecosystem resiliency to flooding and drought through improved planning and water management strategies.



PROJECTS OF THE HABITAT BLUEPRINT

Tier 1 – NOAA Collaborative Projects - combine multiple NOAA line office expertise to meet one or multiple objectives of the Habitat Blueprint. *If not for NOAA working together...*

Tier 2 – NOAA Partner Projects - existing or planned NOAA investments, usually made in conjunction with external partners, that meet one or multiple objectives of the Habitat Blueprint. Tier 2 projects are the foundation of the NOAA habitat conservation program, and most would have happened regardless of the Habitat Blueprint *Can add value to Tier 1 projects...*

Tier 3 - Complementary initiatives - new partnerships formed with government agencies, NGOs, or other entities that have initiatives with objectives that support or complement those of the Russian River Habitat Focus Area. The projects and resources leveraged in this Tier may not have been identified without the attention brought about by the Habitat Focus Area approach. *Strategic investments to support the longevity of Tier 1 and 2....*

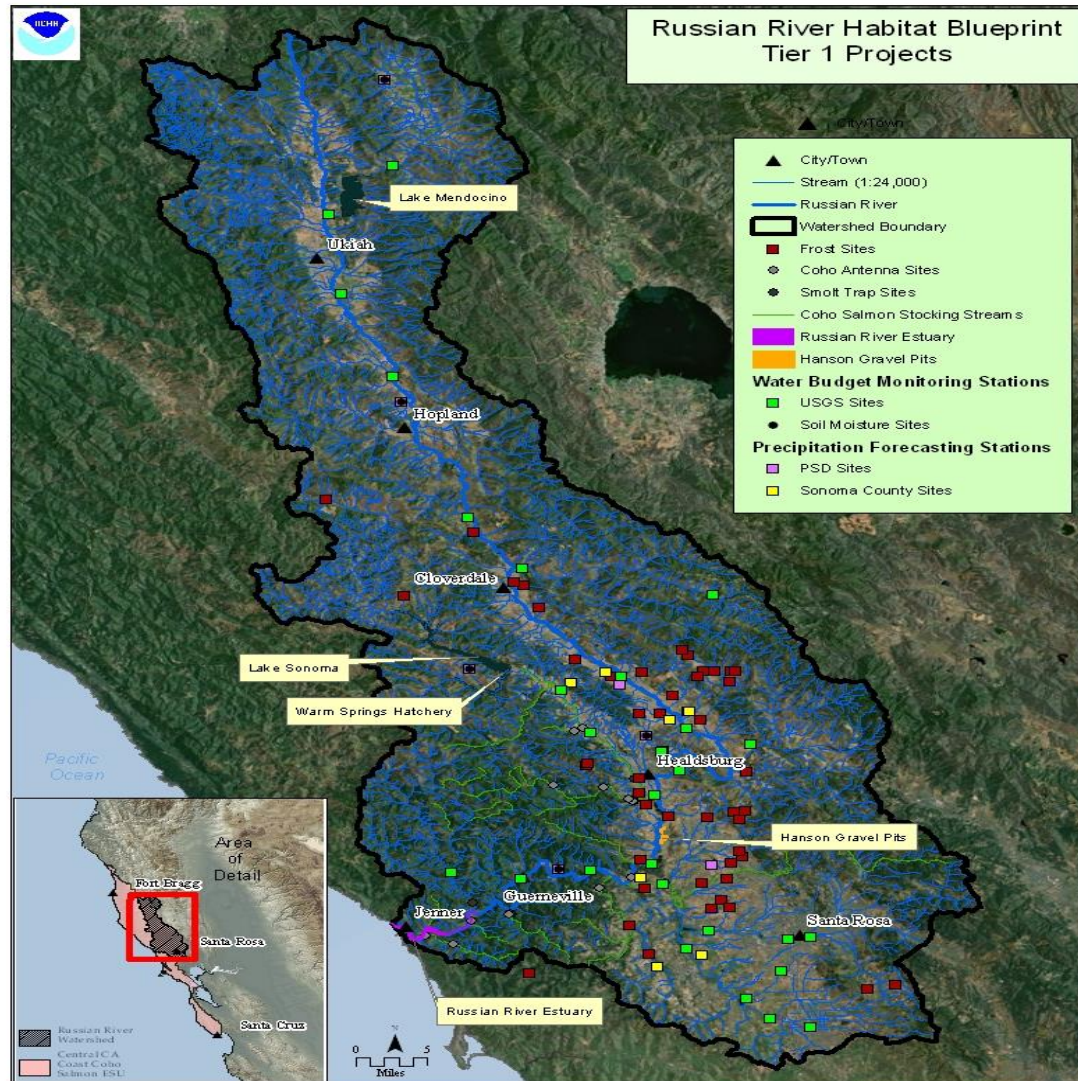


TIER 1 PROJECTS

1. **Improve Precipitation and River Flow Forecasting to Maximize Water Capture for Reservoirs and Fisheries (OAR, NWS, NMFS,)**
2. **Russian River Sub-Basin Hydrologic Study (OAR, NMFS, NOAA (CA) Sea Grant)**
3. **Improving Frost Protection Methods and Prediction for Vineyards (OAR, NMFS, NWS)**
4. **Floodplain Restoration to Reduce Downstream Flood Impacts and Increase Fisheries Habitat Through the Reclamation of Abandoned Gravel Pits (NMFS, NWS)**
5. **Managing and Restoring the Russian River Estuary for Multiple Uses (NOS, NMFS)**



TIER 1 PROJECTS



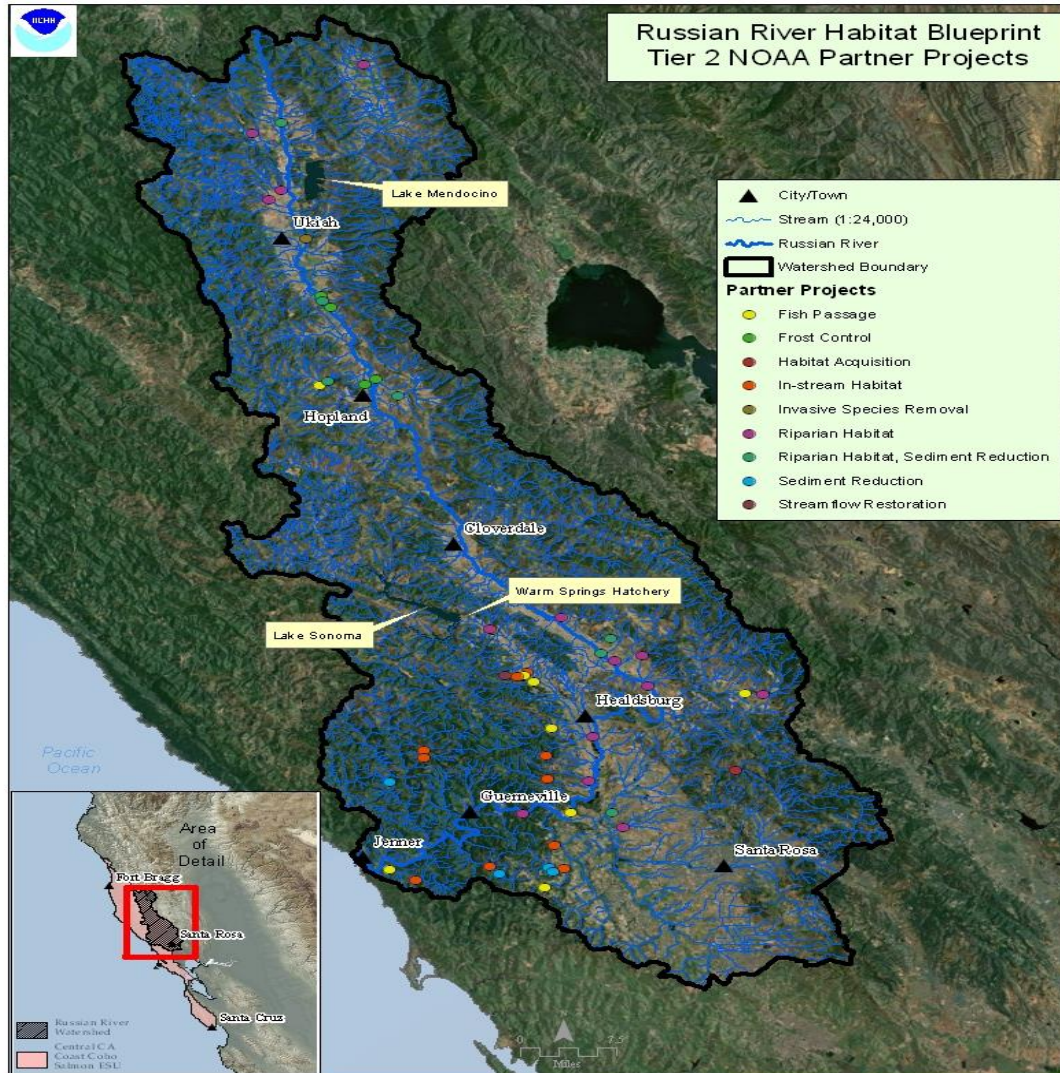
TIER 2 PROJECTS



Restoration/Conservation/Monitoring

Project	Location	Restoration Type
Mirabel Fish Ladder Replacement Project	Russian River main stem	Fish Passage
Green Valley Creek Channel Stabilization and Coho Habitat Enhancement Project	Green Valley Creek	In-stream Habitat
Purrington Creek Fish Passage Project	Purrington Creek	Fish Passage
Redwood Creek Passage Barrier Removal	Redwood Creek (Mayacama Creek watershed)	Fish Passage
Salt Creek Stream Habitat Restoration Project	Salt Creek	In-stream Habitat
Green Valley Creek Roads Implementation Project - Phase II	Green Valley Creek	Sediment Reduction
Dutch Bill Creek Sediment Source Reduction Project	Dutch Bill Creek	Sediment Reduction

TIER 2 PROJECTS



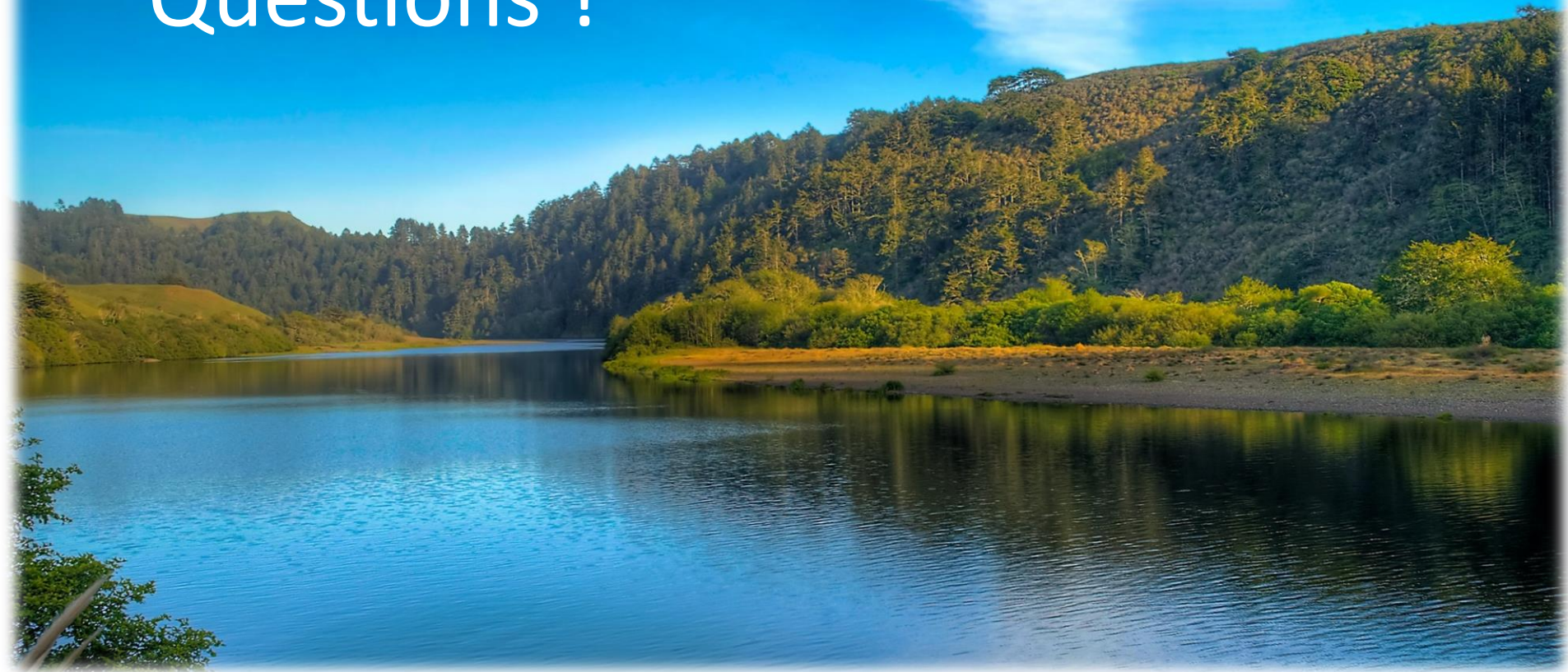
FUNDING TO DATE

Item	Amount
Monitoring	
Coded wire wands	11,250
Inversion towers	20,000
Willow creek flat plate	25,900
Main stem flat plates	60,000
Travel and meetings	
Gravel Pits reclamation meeting	3,000
Partner meeting	5,000
Restoration	
Two projects (through FFO)	527,530
Total to date	651,680



***Need: To fit Habitat
Blueprint efforts into the
budget process FY15 and
beyond...***

Questions ?



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www.noaa.gov/habitatblueprint.html